Claims

1.   A method for providing transitory audio information that is subject to interruption without appreciable loss of content, comprising the steps of:

receiving transitory audio information from an audio source;

5   audibly providing the transitory audio information until an interrupt signal is received;

buffering the transitory audio information;

audibly providing a message that is associated with the interrupt signal; and

10   audibly providing the buffered transitory audio information upon conclusion of the message.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is provided at a faster rate than new transitory audio information is being received.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the interrupt signal is initiated by the actuation of a repeat function and the message corresponds to a predetermined portion of the buffered transitory audio information.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the message is a route instruction.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the message is a collision warning.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is stored in a compressed format.

7.   The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

clearing the buffered transitory audio information when a different audio source is selected.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the transitory audio information is provided in the form of a radio broadcast.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the transitory audio information is buffered in response to the interrupt signal.

10.   An automotive information system for providing transitory audio information that is subject to interruption without appreciable loss of content, comprising:

a receiver for receiving transitory audio information from an

5   audio source;

a memory subsystem for storing data;

an audio output device;

a processor coupled to the receiver, the memory subsystem and the audio output device; and

10   processor executable code stored within the memory subsystem for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

providing the transitory audio information to the audio output device until an interrupt signal is received;

buffering the transitory audio information within the

15   memory subsystem;

providing a message that is associated with the interrupt signal to the audio output device; and

providing the buffered transitory audio information to the audio output device upon conclusion of the message.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is provided at a faster rate than new transitory information is being received.

12.   The system of claim 10, wherein the interrupt signal is initiated by the actuation of a repeat function and the message corresponds to a predetermined portion of the buffered transitory audio information.

13.   The system of claim 10, wherein the message is a route instruction.

14.   The system of claim 10, wherein the message is a collision warning.

15.   The system of claim 10, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is stored in a compressed format.

16.   The system of claim 10, wherein the processor executable code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

clearing the buffered transitory audio information from the memory subsystem when a different audio source is selected.

17.   The system of claim 10, wherein the audio source is a radio station and the transitory audio information is provided in the form of a radio broadcast.

18.   The system of claim 10, wherein the transitory audio information is buffered in response to the interrupt signal.

19. An audio information system for providing transitory audio information that is subject to interruption without appreciable loss of content, comprising:

a radio receiver for receiving transitory audio information in the form of a radio broadcast from a radio station;

a memory subsystem for storing data;

an audio output device;

a processor coupled to the receiver, the memory subsystem and the audio output device; and

processor executable code stored within the memory subsystem for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

providing the transitory audio information to the audio output device until an interrupt signal is received;

buffering the transitory audio information within the memory subsystem;

providing a message that is associated with the interrupt signal to the audio output device; and

providing the buffered transitory audio information to the audio output device upon conclusion of the message.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is provided at a faster rate than new transitory information is being received.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the interrupt signal is initiated by the actuation of a repeat function and the message corresponds to a predetermined portion of the buffered transitory audio information.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein the message is a route instruction.

23.   The system of claim 19, wherein the message is a collision warning.

24.   The system of claim 19, wherein the buffered transitory audio information is stored in a compressed format.

25.   The system of claim 19, wherein the processor executable code causes the processor to perform the additional step of:

clearing the buffered transitory audio information from the memory subsystem when a different audio source is selected.

26.   The system of claim 19, wherein the transitory audio information is buffered in response to the interrupt signal.